

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

ICH 299

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please delete the paragraph at page 3 lines 20-25 and replace with the following:

The width L of the groove (13) in Figure 3, the real guide surface of the curtain, is from 4 mm to 15 mm, preferably from 6 mm to 8 mm. Within this range of widths of the groove (13), an optimal stability of the curtain is obtained with very small quantities of lateral flow liquid as measured by the amount of the coating solutions minimally necessary for curtain formation and where the curtain just does not detach from the lateral guides.

Please delete the paragraph at page 4 lines 12-16 and replace with the following:

At the lower ends (14) of the lateral guides (7), the whole amount of the coating solutions and of the lateral flow liquid are deposited on the moving web (8), as is illustrated in Figure 4. In order to prevent the separation of the curtain from the lateral guides, the angle α between the two sides of the protruding edge needs to be between 0° and 90° , in particular between 10° and 60° .

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

ICH 299

Please delete the paragraph at page 5 lines 3-12 and replace with the following:

Liquids in the border region of the curtain (a mixture of lateral flow liquid and coating solutions) may be drawn below the elements of the lateral guides, depending on the coating weights and viscosities of the coating solutions, leading to strong soiling in the region of curtain impingement. In order to prevent this soiling, the distance d has to be adapted to the coating weights and viscosities of the coating solutions. The surfaces of the undersides of the lower ends (14) of the lateral guides (7) need to be hydrophobic. The free surface energy of these undersides has to be in the range of 10 mNm to 60 mNm, in particular in the range of 20 mNm to 45 mNm. Suitable surface coatings of the underside consist of amorphous carbon or TEFLON (polytetrafluoroethylene). A particularly preferred surface coating is TEFLON (polytetrafluoroethylene).

Please delete the paragraph at page 8 lines 10-15 and replace with the following:

The prepared coating solution was applied to a commercially available polyethylene coated paper support with the aid of a curtain coating device. Water with a small addition of sodium chloride was used as lateral flow liquid. The distance d between the lower end of the lateral guides and the moving web was varied in the range between 0.4 mm and 3.0 mm. The underside of the lateral guides had a TEFLON (polytetrafluoroethylene) surface coating.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

ICH 299

Please delete Table 6 at page 10 and replace with the following:

Table 6

Surface coating of the underside of the lower ends of the lateral guides	Evaluation of liquid entrapment below the lateral guides
Stainless steel	Always entrapment of liquid below the lateral guides, approximately 5 to 10 mm, drop formation at the underside
Titanium nitride	Always entrapment of liquid below the lateral guides, approximately 5 to 10 mm, some drop formation at the underside
Amorphous carbon	Irregular entrapment of liquid below the lateral guides, approximately 3 to 8 mm, no drop formation at the underside
TEFLON(polytetrafluoroethylene)	No entrapment of liquid below the lateral guides

Please delete the paragraph at page 10 lines 6-8 and replace with the following:

The results in Table 6 immediately show that TEFLON (polytetrafluoroethylene) is an especially suitable material for the surface coating of the underside of the lower end of the lateral guides according to the invention.